

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 SP-02 FEA-01 AID-05
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6367
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
EC BRUSSELS 6296
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2500

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECE CSCE UR EC SW CA SENV ETRN ENGR PFOR
SUBJ: ECE - 32ND SESSION - WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING APRIL 1

REF: A. STATE 70485, B. GENEVA 2426, C. GENEVA 2337

1. ECE WESTERN CAUCUS MET APRIL 1. CAUCUS DISCUSSED NEW DEVELOPMENTS RE HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS, DRAFT RESOLUTIONS, COMPOSITION OF 32ND SESSION CONTACT GROUP, AND ECE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS.

2. SWEDEN CIRCULATED COPIES OF LETTER DATED APRIL 1, 1977, TO ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK SETTING FORTH SWEDISH VIEWS ON SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY. SWEDISH LETTER RECALLS STATEMENTS OF NORWEGIAN AND SWEDISH DELEGATIONS AT RECENT MEETING OF SENIOR ADVISERS TO ECE GOVERNMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS RE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY TRANSBOUNDARY AIR-BORNE POLLUTANTS AND CITES NEED FOR HARMONIZATION OF EMISSION CONTROL POLICIES OF ALL STATES IN
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EUROPE, POSSIBLY THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. SWEDISH LETTER SAYS THIS INITIATIVE COULD BE UNDERTAKEN INDEPENDENTLY OR COULD BE INTEGRATED INTO A REGIONAL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT. SUCH MEETING COULD ALSO ENCOMPASS OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS CONTROL OF PRODUCTS HAZARDOUS TO HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. SWEDISH LETTER ENDORSES CRITERIA SET FORTH IN FINNISH LETTER OF MARCH 17, 1977, FOR HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND

SAYS THAT GOS REGARDS ECE AS OBVIOUS SPONSOR FOR SUCH A MEETING. IT ADDS THAT PROMPT AND EFFICIENT ACTION WITHIN TWO PROBLEM AREAS MENTIONED ABOVE SEEMS TO CALL FOR MEETINGS ON HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ECE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA SET FORTH BY STANOVNIK IN DOCUMENT E/ECE/OQQM SWEDISH LETTER STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF THOROUGH PREPARATORY WORK FOR SUCH HIGH LEVEL MEETING AND SUGGESTS THAT EACH TOPIC MIGHT BE ASSIGNED TO ONE OR TWO LEAD COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD BE MADE RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING PREPARATIONS FOR THAT TOPIC IN COOPERATION WITH ECE SECRETARIAT. FULL TEXT OF SWEDISH LETTER POUCHED IO/IEP AND EUR/RPE.

3. CANADA ALSO MADE NEW STATEMENT ON SOVIET PROPOSAL. CANADIAN REP SAID SOVIET PROPOSAL - ESPECIALLY SECOND LETTER - BEING STUDIES WITH OPEN MIND. WITHOUT LOSING SIGHT OF USSR POLITICAL MOTIVES, CANADA INTENDED TO LOOK AT PROPOSAL SERIOUSLY SINCE IT ENCOMPASSES FIELDS COVERED IN CSCE FINAL ACT, AND WOULD TAKE PRAGMATIC APPROACH. CANADIAN REP SAID NOTHING IN FINAL ACT EITHER EXCLUDED OR CALLED FOR SUCH MEETINGS AND THEY WOULD BE STUDIES IN RESPECT TO WHETHER WORTH DOING AND AT WHAT LEVEL. CANADA DID NOT PLAN TO SEND LETTER TO STANOVNIK RE SOVIET PROPOSAL. IT FOUND STANOVNIK SUGGESTIONS RE HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS IN ECE OF INTEREST AND CONSIDERED ENVIRONMENT THE MOST LIKELY AREA FOR SUCH MEETING IF ANY CONSIDERED NECESSARY. ANY SUCH MEETING SHOULD BE DISCUSSED, PREPARED FOR AND HELD IN ECE FRAMEWORK.

4. AUSTRIA HOPED POSITIVE SOLUTION TO SOVIET PROPOSAL ACCEPTABLE TO ALL COULD BE REACHED AT 32ND SESSION BUT DID NOT INTEND TO SEND LETTER ON QUESTION.

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5. US DEL MADE NO STATEMENT AS SUGGESTED PARA 3, REF A, SINCE THIS ALREADY DONE IN CAUCUS MEETING MARCH 25 (REF C).

6. UK ADVISED THAT EC WOULD CIRCULATE A DRAFT RESOLUTION WHEN AGREED UPON. COMMENT: MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT POINT AT ISSUE WITHIN EC IS SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AS TOPIC FOR HIGH LEVEL MEETING IN OPERATIVE PARA 5 OF UK DRAFT. FRENCH NOT YET ABLE TO AGREE TO ENVIRONMENT AS TOPIC BUT SUCH AGREEMENT EXPECTED OVER WEEKEND. MISSION FURTHER UNDERSTANDS THAT REST OF DRAFT AGREED BASICALLY AS PRESENTED WITH EXCEPTION OF DELETION OF OPERATIVE PARA 7 AND AMENDMENT OF PREAMBULAR PARA 6 TO RECOGNIZE SUGGESTIONS OF STANOVNIK RATHER THAN VIEWS OF "NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES." EC AGREEMENT ON DRAFT RESOLUTION EXPECTED APRIL 3 OR 4, WITH PRESENTATION TO WESTERN CAUCUS APRIL 5. END COMMENT.

7. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT UNLESS THERE WERE OBJECTIONS, CONTACT GROUP FOR 32ND SESSION WOULD BE COMPOSED OF CHAIRMAN (DENMARK) UK, AUSTRIA AND SPAIN. HE NOTED THAT MEMBERS WOULD REPRESENT CAUCUS AS A WHOLE (NOT GROUPS), THAT OTHERS COULD ATTEND MEETINGS

AS OBSERVERS AND THAT COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN ANY SUBJECT WOULD BE INVITED TO SIT AT TABLE WHEN SUBJECT BEING DEALT WITH. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS.

8. CHAIRMAN ADVISED THAT EASTERN COUNTRIES WERE PREPARING TO SEND CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS TO ECE ON OCCASION OF ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY AND SUGGESTED THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES MIGHT WISH TO DO SAME. SUCH MESSAGES COULD BE ADDRESSED EITHER TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OR COMMISSION PRESIDENT.

9. CHAIRMAN STATED THAT CAUCUS WOULD MEET ON AFTERNOON OF APRIL 18, WITH INTERIM MEETING IF REQUIRED. WE PRESUME CAUCUS WILL MEET ON OR ABOUT APRIL 5 FOR PRESENTATION OF EC DRAFT RESOLUTION. DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.SORENSEN

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